

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 51

By Hazlewood

A RESOLUTION to honor Reverend Margaret Ferguson upon the occasion of her retirement from Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church.

WHEREAS, we are pleased to recognize a Tennessean who, having answered the divine call to ministry, has served the Signal Mountain community with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, hailing from an extensive line of ministers and community servants, Reverend Margaret Ferguson has served ably at Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church for more than thirty years in various capacities, including her current position as Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, from which position she will take her much-deserved retirement on January 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, born in Memphis, Reverend Ferguson is the great-granddaughter of Reverend William Loaring-Clark, one of the historic priests of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chattanooga, for whom one of their campus buildings is named; she graduated from St. Mary's School and attended the University of the South (Sewanee); and

WHEREAS, early in her career, she rendered sterling service in a number of capacities, including as a radio news reporter in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, a journalist with the *Chattanooga Free Press*, and a French instructor at Girls Preparatory School; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Ferguson joined the staff of Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church in 1990 as Interim Director of Youth Ministries; she implemented innovative outreach programs that are still a vital part of the church's ministry, including Fantastic Inspirational Spiritual Happenings (FISH); and

WHEREAS, in 1992, she became Director of Christian Education, in which role she served faithfully for thirteen years while she furthered her education at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from seminary in 2010 with a Master of Divinity degree and a Master of Arts and Christian Counseling degree, she answered the call to serve as Associate Pastor of Congregational Care; and

WHEREAS, the first female teaching elder to serve Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church, Reverend Margaret Ferguson has been the hands and feet of Christ as she walked with members, whether in times of crisis or celebration; her love of the Lord is evident in her preaching, her teaching, her personal life, and the way she reflects His love to her congregation; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her dedication to ministry in the church, Reverend Margaret Ferguson found time to involve herself in a number of community organizations over the years; she served as chair on the boards of the Junior League and First Things First and as a member on several other boards; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Ferguson enjoys the love and companionship of her husband, Scott Ferguson, a gentleman she met during her time at Sewanee; together, they are the parents of Meg (Matthew) Rogers and Michael (Angela) Ferguson and the proud and loving grandparents of Torin and Rosalee; and

WHEREAS, we are delighted to recognize this committed Christian leader for her service to her community and the congregation of Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Reverend Margaret Ferguson upon the occasion

of her retirement from Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church, celebrate her for her thirty years of service in ministry, and extend to her our heartfelt wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.